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June 16, 2003

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Art Unit 1638

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Re:

PO Box 1450

Commissioner for Patents

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/646,679; § 371 Date: Feburary 22, 2001

Signal Transduction Protein Involved in Plant Dehiscence

PAID at al.

For:

Inventors:

PAUL et al.

Our Ref:

0623.0890000/LBB/PAC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
- 2. Fee Transmittal Form;
- 3. United States Patent & Trademark Office Credit Card Payment Form;
- Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and 4.
- 5. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLL.C.: 1100 New York Avenue, NW: Washington, DC 20005: 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540: www.skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents June 16, 2003 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Lawrence B. Bugaisky Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 35,086

LBB/PAC:dbj Enclosures

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